REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4 and 13-19 are now pending in this application with claims 1 and 13 being independent claims. Claims 2 and 5-12 have been canceled. In a May 25, 2010 final office action, the Examiner rejected all claims under both 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §103.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection alleges that the claims are indefinite with respect to the meaning of "logical IP set." Examiner construes "logical IP set" as the equivalent of means-plus-function language because he alleges that in connotes no more structure than "means." Examiner then determines that "logical IP set" is indefinite as used in the claims because the specification does not provide a corresponding algorithm for the functions that the "logical IP set" performs.

In issuing the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection, Examiner indicates that the "state machines" of United States Patent No. 7,058,082 ("Bhat") are the equivalent of the logical IP sets of independent claims 1 and 13. However, the "state machines" of Bhat do not perform the same functions as the logical IP sets of the present invention. The state machines of Bhat simply indicate the state of a phone call to a given phone as active or inactive. There also is not a single logical IP set (i.e. call state machine) for each SIP set (i.e. device) in Bhat.

The present invention, as discussed on pages 9-14 of the present application, involves an IP-PBX, adhering to a first protocol, sending a message to one of a plurality of IP addresses at a SIP-PBX proxy server. The SIP-PBX proxy server contains a separate IP address for each SIP set adhering to a second protocol connected to the SIP-PBX proxy server. A converter within the SIP-PBX proxy server receives the message sent to one of the plurality of IP addresses of the SIP-PBX proxy server and consults a mapping table to determine which SIP set IP address

corresponds to the one of the plurality of IP addresses of the SIP-PBX proxy server for redirecting the message to the corresponding SIP set IP address. The converter also converts the message from the first protocol to the second protocol. In certain embodiments, the converter also consults the mapping table to ascertain which ports to send and receive messages on for the IP-PBX and the SIP sets.

When the SIP set sends a message to the SIP-PBX proxy server, the converter receives the message, converts the message from the second protocol type to the first protocol type and consults the mapping table to ascertain which of the plurality of IP addresses of the SIP-PBX proxy server corresponds with the SIP set sending the message. The converted message is then transmitted to the IP-PBX with the appropriate IP address of the SIP-PBX proxy server listed as the source.

The independent claims have been amended to include limitations related to the role of the converter. The independent claims have also been amended to include language to clarify that the SIP-PBX proxy server has a plurality of IP addresses which each map to an IP address of a SIP set connected to the SIP-PBX proxy server. The language related to "logical IP sets" has been removed.
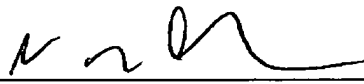
Claims 3-4 and 14-19 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claims 1 and 13 are allowable.

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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment and response places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact the undersigned at 512-306-8533.

Respectfully submitted,

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